

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA: Spring 2020

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Theatre & Film Department

Course: FLPA F310 F01

CRN: 34334, 3 credits

Required Prerequisites: FLPA F121 Fundamentals of Acting

Location: Green Room (THEA 101)/ KUAC TV Studio

Dates: January 13 - May 2, 2020

Days/Time: Wednesdays 1-2pm AND Fridays 11:45am-3:15pm

CARRIE BAKER, Professor, Theatre & Film Department Chair

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30am-1pm or by appointment

I. Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to apply skills introduced in *Fundamentals of Acting* to acting for the camera. Through exercises and scene study, we will expand each performer's range of emotional, intellectual, physical, and vocal expressiveness for the camera. Students will act in on-camera exercises, television scenes, and film scenes.

II. Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

- To familiarize students with on-camera acting techniques.
- To demonstrate the differences between stage and film acting.
- To expose students to single-camera acting techniques for acting in film and television.
- To develop actors' skills for a long shot, medium shot, and close-up shot.
- To develop actors' skills with on-camera blocking, business, subtext, and reactions.
- To develop students' creative tools and expressiveness for the camera.
- To prepare students for on-camera auditioning.

III. Instructional Methods:

This class is a scene study course. Students will learn camera acting techniques by being in front of the camera as much as possible. Students will "crew" scenes their classmates are acting in. Shooting on-camera work is time consuming. The class will include extensive scene memorization, class discussions, performance critique writing, and journal self-assessment writing.

IV. Required Reading:

You will have weekly reading from the following books. Each Wednesday, bring a list of 10 "tips" about camera acting that you learned from the reading that week. The books

will also help you tremendously when you are in front of the camera, so keep up with the reading. Your midterm and final self-assessments will include analysis of acting techniques discussed in these books. All texts are available in the bookstore. All texts and the film DVD are on 2-hour/ overnight reserve in the library. Electronic copies of the Bernard and Tucker texts are available via the library website.

- Film and Television Acting: From Stage to Screen, Ian Bernard, 2nd edition, Focal Press, ISBN: 0240803019
- Secrets of Screen Acting, Patrick Tucker, 3rd edition, Routledge, ISBN: 9781138793408
- Acting in Film, Michael Caine, Applause Theatre Book Publishers ISBN: 9781557832771
- Film Viewing: *Mystic River*, directed by Clint Eastwood. Library DVD-604.

V. Recommended Reading:

- Audition, Michael Shurtleff, Walker & Co. ISBN: 9780802772404
- Acting Professionally: Raw Facts About Careers in Acting, Robert Cohen, 8th Edition, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company ISBN: 9781137605863

VI. Auditions:

All *Acting for the Camera* students are encouraged to attend auditions throughout the semester as they come up. Find more information about this and the Theatre/Film season at www.uaf.edu/theatrefilm/.

VII. Attendance & Lateness Policy:

Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Exercises, improvisations, discussions, and scene work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class. If you miss classes, you are missing the course.

Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Excused absences must be supported with written documentation (such as a doctor's note) presented when you return to the following class. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade. Missing a class in which you are scheduled to perform is unacceptable and will further reduce your grade. When possible, notify me via email or phone before class if you will be absent. All handouts and assignments will be given in class; if you miss a class, you are responsible for getting all handouts and assignments. All course paperwork (syllabus, assignments) will also be posted on Blackboard (online).

Please arrive to class on time. You are graded each day on attendance (including lateness) and participation. Each unexcused absence will reduce your Participation grade by 1 point. Being late will also reduce your grade. Three lates will equal one unexcused absence and reduce your grade accordingly. Come to class every day and be on time. I expect the highest level of professionalism and responsibility from each of you.

VIII. Grading Policy:

Please note: Grading will be based on a +/- system this semester. A minimum grade of C- is required for all prerequisites and major courses in the 2019-20 catalog.

Attendance, Class Participation, Reading & Weekly Tips.....	15 points
Memorization, Preparation & Performance of Material.....	60 points
Monologue/ Reaction Shot.....	10 points
In-Class Exercise Scenes.....	10 points
Subtext	
Blocking	
Phone Call	
Change of Direction	
One Pager Scene	10 points
TV Scene.....	15 points
Film Scene.....	15 points
Film Critique.....	5 points
Midterm Paper.....	10 points
Final Paper.....	10 points
TOTAL POINTS: 100	

Grading System:				
97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	Below 60: F
93-96: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D	
90-92: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-	

A. Attendance, Class Participation, Reading & Weekly Tips: 15 points

- Your level of participation, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to work in this class is of the utmost importance. Extensive memorization and preparation outside of class is expected. Watching others shoot a scene can be tremendously beneficial to your own acting. Also, you will participate as technical crew support when you are not shooting. I expect a positive and supportive attitude from each of you, especially when your classmates are shooting. I expect each of you to actively engage in class discussions about the reading and scene work. You are graded each class for attendance, participation, and attitude.
- Turn in your list of *Weekly Tips* due each Wednesday.
- Students are required to join Vimeo.com and join the group: <https://vimeo.com/groups/uafscreen2020>
- For each scene you shoot, you are required to fill out a *Director Assessment Form*.

B. Memorization, Preparation & Performance of Material: 60 points

Exercise and Scene Work:

Each time you shoot an exercise, monologue, or scene in class, you need to come in with the material FULLY OFF-BOOK and FULLY PREPARED. Thorough

memorization and preparation of this material is imperative. Your rehearsal is essentially a blocking rehearsal on the day of the shoot. This is a typical film/TV process...VERY different from a stage-acting process. All your memorization, character choices, and business choices must be done before class.

Some Notes:

- Warm-ups: It is your responsibility to physically and vocally warm-up before each class. We will not be doing group warm-ups. You will find relaxation is very important for camera acting, so I encourage you to do thorough warm-ups prior to class (stretch, range & resonance, articulation & tongue twisters).
- Shut off cell phones.
- Please do not eat in class or near any of the equipment. Water is the only drink allowed in the studio but please keep it away from equipment and don't spill it.

C. Midterm Paper: 10 points

You will write a three page double-spaced self-assessment of your on-camera acting work based on the first 6 weeks of camera technique and performance of exercises. In this self-assessment you should: articulate your on-camera strengths and weaknesses; reflect on your process when approaching on-camera scene/ exercise work; track your acting development and the differences between stage acting and camera acting; respond to your readings in Bernard and Tucker; and set goals for the remainder of the semester. **Due: Wednesday March 4, 2020.**

D. Film Critique: 5 points

Three double spaced typed pages. You will write one film acting critique this semester on the film *Mystic River*, which is available on reserve in the library. Your observations and writing will be based on your readings in Bernard and Tucker and the on-camera acting techniques that we will learn in the first half of the semester. Even if you have already seen the film, see it again. I will hand out Critique Guidelines later in the semester. **Due: Wednesday March 18, 2020.**

E. Final Paper: 10 points

The final three page double-spaced self-assessment will be based on the second half of the semester and your work in the *Change of Direction*, film, and television scenes. In this self-assessment you should also: articulate your on-camera strengths and weaknesses; reflect on your process when approaching on-camera scene work; track your acting development and the differences between stage acting and camera acting; respond to your readings in Cohen and Caine; and track your own progress throughout the semester. **Due: Thursday April 30, 2020 by 9AM.**

IX. Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
- Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
- No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.”

If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will FAIL the assignment and possibly the entire class.

X. Student Protections and Services Statement:

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disabilities services, veteran’s services, rural student services, etc to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/

XI. Support Services:

- Disability Services: <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>
- Student Support Services <https://uaf.edu/sss/>
- Rural Student Services <https://uaf.edu/rurals/>
- Military and Veteran Services: <https://uaf.edu/veterans/>
- UAF Writing Center <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/>

XII. Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

- 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043.
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599.
- 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.

XIII. TENTATIVE Semester Overview:

Because we are collaborating with the FLPA 331 Film Directing class, this schedule WILL change. This below schedule is meant to give you a broad sketch of the semester. As the schedule changes, I will distribute new schedules.

Reading should be done by Wednesday class each week...it will help your performance! Your list of “tips” is due every Wednesday at the beginning of class.

Week 1:

1/15 Enrollment, Syllabus

1/17 Intro to on-camera acting, Studio Tour, Meet the Directors, Subtext Exercise with directors/ Assign: *Monologue* and *Blocking* scene.

Week 2:

Reading:

- Tucker: Introduction – Ch 2
- Bernard: Foreword - Ch 2

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 1/22
- Memorize/ prepare *Blocking*: due 1/22
- Memorize/ prepare contemporary on-camera monologue (30 seconds): due 1/24

1/22 On-camera Exercises: *Blocking*

1/24 Shoot: monologues/ reactions shots, blocking exercise/ Assign: *One Pager* Scene (business)

Week 3:

Reading:

- Tucker: Ch 3 & 4
- Bernard: Ch 3 & 4

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 1/29
- Memorize/ prepare *Phone Call*: due 1/29
- Memorize/ Prepare *One Pager*: due 1/31

1/29 On-camera exercises: *Phone Call* (3)

1/31 Watch Monologue & Reaction Shot Playbacks/ *One Pager* rehearsals with Directors: Actors Off-Book

Week 4:Reading:

- Tucker: Ch 5 & 6
- Bernard: Ch 5 & 6

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 2/5
- Prepare *One Pager*: due 2/5

2/5 KUAC: Workshop *One Pagers* (1)

2/7 KUAC: Shoot *One Pagers* (3) / Green Room: Workshop *One Pagers* (3)

Week 5:Reading:

- Tucker: Ch 7 & 8
- Bernard: Ch 7 & 8

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 2/12
- Prepare *One Pager*: due 2/12

2/12 KUAC: Workshop *One-Pagers* (1)

2/14 KUAC: Shoot *One Pager* (3) / Green Room: Workshop *One Pagers* (1)/ Assign TV Scene Material

Week 6:Reading:

- Tucker: Ch 9-11
- Bernard: Ch 9-11

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 2/19
- Prepare *Phone Call*: due 2/19
- Prepare TV Scene: due 2/21

2/19 On-camera exercises: *Phone Call* (3)

2/21 Watch *One Pager* Playbacks (Discussion: Continuity, Choices, Chemistry)/ Workshop TV Scenes (2)

Week 7:Reading:

- Bernard: Ch 12-End
- Tucker: Ch 12-End

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 2/26
- Prepare TV scene

2/26 KUAC: Workshop TV Scene (1)

2/28 KUAC: Shoot TV Scenes (3)/ Green Room: Workshop TV Scenes (1)

Week 8:

Assignments Due:

- Midterm Self-Assessment Paper (*Monologue/ Reactions, Blocking, Phone Call, One Pager*, reading assignments): due 3/4
- Prepare TV scene

3/4 KUAC: Workshop TV Scenes (1)

3/6 KUAC: Shoot TV Scenes (3)/ Assign: Film Scenes

***** SPRING BREAK March 9-13*****

Week 9:

Assignments Due:

- Prepare Film Scenes: due 3/18
- *Mystic River* Film Critique due 3/18

3/18 Film Scene Rehearsals (actors off-book)

3/20 Watch TV Scenes Playbacks/ Film Scene Rehearsals with Directors

Week 10:

Reading:

- *The Eyes Have It* Article

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 3/25
- Prepare Film Scenes

3/25 Workshop Film Scenes (1)

3/27 Workshop Film Scenes (5)

Week 11:

Reading:

- Caine: Ch 1-3

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 4/1
- Memorize/ prepare *Change of Direction Scene*: due 4/1
- Prepare Film Scenes

4/1 On-camera exercises: *Change of Direction Scene*

4/3 Shoot Film Scenes (2)

Week 12:

Reading:

- Caine: Ch 4-6

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 4/8
- Prepare *Change of Direction Scene*: due 4/8
- Prepare Film Scenes

4/8 On-camera exercises: *Change of Direction Scene*

4/10 Shoot Film Scenes (2)

Week 13:

Reading:

- Caine: Ch 7 & 8

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 4/15
- Prepare *Change of Direction Scene*: due 4/15
- Prepare Film Scenes

4/15 On-camera exercises: *Change of Direction Scene*

4/17 Shoot Film Scenes (2)

Week 14:

Reading:

- Caine: Ch 9

Assignments Due:

- 10 TIPS: due 4/22
- Prepare *Change of Direction Scene*: due 4/22

4/22 On-camera exercises: *Change of Direction Scene*

4/24 Final Discussion

Final Exam Screening in the Salisbury Theatre

Wednesday April 29, 2020 1-3pm

Watch Film Scene Playbacks/ Final Discussion

Final Self-Assessment Paper due Thursday April 30 by 9AM.